

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6, 10, 11 and 15-28 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 1-4, 6, 10 and 11 are amended, claims 5, 7-9 and 12-14 are canceled, and claims 15-28 are added.

No new matter is added. Support for the amendments to claim 1 are found in, for example, original claims 5, 7 and 8. Support for new independent claim 15 is found in, for example, original claims 1, 5, 7 and 9. Support for new independent claim 22 is found in, for example, original claims 1 and 12-14.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Arrangement of the Specification

The Office Action suggests that Applicant's specification include headings in accordance with MPEP § 608.01(a). The specification is amended to include proper headings.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for allegedly being indefinite.

The Office Action asserts that claims 12-14 include improper reference numbers. However, Applicant believes that this rejection is incorrect because each claim was amended in the October 13, 2005 Supplemental Preliminary Amendment to exclude reference numbers. No reference numbers are included in the claims in the present Amendment.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action set forth the following rejections:

- (1) claims 1-3, 5, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Coulter (U.S. Patent No. 3,457,949);
- (2) claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Coulter in view of Crosby et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,695,602);
- (3) claims 4 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Coulter in view of Collins (U.S. Patent No. 2,755,816); and
- (4) claims 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Coulter in view of Masuyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,092,361).

Each of these rejections is respectfully traversed.

Applicant gratefully appreciates the indication that claims 8, 9 and 14 contain allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, independent claim 1 is amended to include the features of allowable claim 8 along with intervening claims 5 and 7, and claim 5, 7 and 8 are canceled. Independent claim 15 is added and includes the features of prior claim 1, allowable claim 9, and intervening claims 5 and 7, and claim 9 is canceled. Independent claim 22 is added and includes the features of prior claim 1, allowable claim 14 and intervening claims 12 and 13, and claims 12-14 are canceled.

Thus, in view of the indication of allowable subject matter, independent claims 1, 15 and 22, and their dependent claims, are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-4, 6, 10, 11 and 15-28 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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